

Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 455, 8th April 1918

Madras Students' Advisory Committee

Recording report on the working of the — from the 11th March 1917 to the 8th March 1918.

INDEXED

ORIGINAL

Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 455, 8th April 1918

Madras Students' Advisory Committee

Recording report on the working of the — from the 11th March 1917 to the 8th March 1918.

READ—the following paper:—

Letter—from ARTHUR DAVIES, Esq., M.A., Bar-at-Law, Secretary, Madras Students' Advisory Committee.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—the 19th March 1918.

No.—556.

I have the honour to submit herewith copies of the Proceedings of the Madras Students' Advisory Committee at their meetings held on the 20th October 1917 and 9th March 1918, together with the Secretary's report from 11th March 1917 to 8th March 1918.

ENCLOSURES

(1)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Saturday, the 20th October 1917.

(The Seventeenth Meeting of the Committee was held at Senate House at 8 A.M.)

PRESENT:

F. S. Davies, Esq., B.A. (in the chair).

M. R. Ry. K. Ramunni Menon Avargal, M.A.
Mr. Saiyid Ross Masud.

The Rev. W. M. Zumbro.

Mr. Arthur Davies (Secretary).

Read letters from the Resident at Hyderabad, from the Resident in Mysore and from Dr. K. K. Pandalai, Mr. L. O. Hodgson, Mr. H. Y. Necker, and Mr. K. Ramanuja Achariyar, regretting their inability to attend the meeting.

Read and recorded the following letter from the Secretary for Indian Students at the India Office, and resolve that a *précis* be forwarded to the Press.

Letter from Dr. T. W. Arnold, Educational Adviser at the India Office, dated 22nd May 1917, forwarding for information copy of letter addressed by the Board of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company to their Agent in Bombay regarding entertainment of Indian gentlemen as officers in the Company's Service.

Read and recorded the following Government Orders:—

G.O. No. 429, dated 2nd April 1917, recording report on the working of the Committee from 5th March 1916 to 10th March 1917.

G.O. No. 440, dated 4th April 1917, forwarding for distribution to the Members of the Committee 18 copies of the report on the work of the Indian Students Department, London, from July 1915 to June 1916.

G.O. No. 723, dated 31st May 1917, reconstituting the Madras Students' Advisory Committee.

G.O. No. 849, dated 26th June 1917, forwarding papers for the Conference of the Provincial Secretaries of Advisory Committees held at Simla on the 9th and 10th July 1917.

(The Secretary attended the Conference and the Proceedings of the Conference have not been received yet.)

The Secretary be asked to bring up the question raised in the Report, e.g., Education Bureau, Handbook, etc.

Read and recorded the following :—

Letter from the Registrar, High Court of Judicature, Madras, No. R.O.C. 707/17, dated the 15th August 1917, forwarding copies of an amendment to rule 6 of the rules framed by the High Court for the qualification and admission of Advocates for notification to the students in England reading for the bar.

Reports on the working of the other Provincial Advisory Committees of the following Provinces for the year 1916-17 :—

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| (1) Bombay. | | (4) Central Provinces. |
| (2) Calcutta. | | (5) Behar and Orissa. |
| (3) United Provinces. | | |

F. S. DAVIES,
Chairman.

(2)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Saturday, the 9th March 1918.

(The Eighteenth Meeting of the Committee was held at the Senate House at 8 a.m.)

PRESENT :

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras, *President*.
The Director of Public Instruction, Madras, *Vice-President*.
Raja Vasudeva Raja, C.I.E., *Valia Nambidi Kollengode*.
Mr. L. C. Hodgson, M.A.
" F. S. Davies, B.A.
" K. Ramunni Menon, M.A.
" Paul Appaswami, M.A., LL.B. (*Bar-at-law*).
" Saiyid Ross Masud, B.A. (*Oron*), I.E.S. (*Bar-at-law*).
The Rev. W. M. Zumbro, M.A.
The Rev. Allen Gardiner, M.A.
The Hon'ble Mr. Yacub Hassan.
Mr. Arthur Davies, *Secretary*.

Read letters from Mr. H. Y. Necker, the Hon'ble the Residents at Hyderabad and in Mysore, the Hon'ble Rev. G. Pittendrigh, Dr. Krishnan Pandalai and Mr. K. Ramanuja Achariyar regretting their inability to attend the meeting.

2. Read letter from Dr. T. W. Arnold, Educational Adviser at the India Office, dated 1st November 1917, calling for an opinion on the proposal to publish a new edition of the handbook of information for Indian students.

Resolved that Dr. T. W. Arnold be informed that we have no suggestions to make at present.

3. Read letter from Dr. T. W. Arnold, dated 20th November 1917, advising despatch of certain prospectuses of educational institutions for the session 1917-18.

In this connexion Dr. T. W. Arnold draws our attention to an important modification which will be incorporated in the new regulations, which is to the following effect :—

" On and after the academical year 1919-20 all candidates whose native language is other than English will be required to pass an examination in English designed to test their ability to understand and use the language sufficiently for the purpose of study at a Scottish University."

This means that every Indian, whatever other exemption he may obtain, must pass an examination in English before he can enter a Scottish University.

Resolved that Dr. T. W. Arnold be informed that in the opinion of this Advisory Committee the requirement is absolutely unnecessary in the case of graduates of the Madras University and is liable to be viewed as a reflection on the standard of knowledge of this University and that Dr. T. W. Arnold should be requested to be good enough to make such representation or take such action as may be necessary to secure a recognition of Madras degrees by way of an exception to the general rule or otherwise.

4. Read letter from Dr. T. W. Arnold, dated 8th January 1918, requesting to place before the Committee for their approval the suggestion that in future whenever a student intends to go to England and consults the Secretary about his course of study, the Secretary should ascertain forthwith whether or not the Committee are prepared to recommend the student for admission to an Inn of Court. In the event of the student eventually desiring to study for the Bar, the Educational Adviser should be informed of the fact accordingly. This would enable the Educational Adviser to sign a certificate which the Inns of Court now require him to sign when recommending Indian students for admission.

Resolved that Dr. T. W. Arnold be informed that the suggestion will be followed so far as it may be necessary and practicable.

5. Read and recorded letter from Dr. T. W. Arnold, dated 22nd January 1918, stating that in future all telegrams intended for him should be addressed to "Zabucadas", while "Xafariz" is the address for the Local Adviser at 21, Cromwell Road, S.W.

6. Read and recorded G.O. No. 1308, Home (Education) Department, dated 22nd October 1917, communicating Government of India's letter regarding certain amendment to the rules relating to State scholarships.

7. Read and recorded proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction R.O. No. 319, dated 11th January 1918, stating that two scholarships are available for award in 1918, one for the study of Sanskrit and one of Arabic by Indians.

8. Read and approved Secretary's Annual Report from 11th March 1917 to date.

P. S. SIVASWAMI AYYAR,
President.

(3)

THE MADRAS STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Secretary's Report from 11th March 1917 to 8th March 1918.

Once more we meet under the shadow of the war and once more therefore I have to report a diminution in the number of students who have gone to Great Britain. In the years before the war the usual number of such persons varied between 30 and 40. Since my last report only four students have gone, and of these three hold Government scholarships. Hitherto however the number of enquiries was almost as large each year since the war broke out as it had been before. At length however even this figure has been affected. The number of applicants for advice or information in 1913-14, the year before the War, was over 300. In the year under report it has sunk to 180.

In previous years I have commented largely on the qualifications of the students who have gone to Great Britain, the studies they proposed to pursue and the educational centres to which they were going, and this year for the sake of uniformity the usual tables showing these details are again appended.

It would however seem appropriate this year when there is so little to say on the usual lines that some accounts should be given of the 180 cases in which the aid of this Committee has been sought. In earlier years I used to get quite a number of enquiries from places outside the Presidency, but during the last year I had only one from Bombay, one from the Punjab and three from Ceylon. The first two I referred to their own committees. In the Ceylon cases I gave some general advice but pointed out that they were outside the scope of this Committee's operations. I still get a considerable number of enquiries about examinations specially the London LL. B. and the London B.Sc. held in Ceylon—this year the figure is 12. Of these a few may contemplate going to Great Britain ultimately, but the majority obviously never intend to do so. The value of the London LL. B. degree obtained at Colombo by itself as a qualification for practising in the High Court or Subordinate Courts of this Presidency is a question for the High Court to determine.

Then there are also 4 or 5 cases of enquiry about the Cambridge Senior Local Examinations held in this Presidency. The certificate so obtained, if Latin and English Literature are included among the subjects, is a passport to an Inn of Court, and most of these who consult me seem to have this end in view.

I get in increasing numbers enquiries about educational and industrial conditions in Japan and the United States of America. Of Japan, I have literally no information at all. Of the United States of America I have managed to obtain two or three pamphlets of a very general sort which have proved useful to some extent : but as both these countries are outside the sphere of our work, I have no "official" knowledge about them. Enquiries in respect of these countries are generally about technical pursuits (e.g., soap manufacture, paper mills, porcelain) but occasionally Law, Medicine, Engineering, and even an ordinary Arts Degree are the objects in view. I do not wish to anticipate the report of the Simla Conference of last July, but I may mention that the attitude of the committees towards enquiries about such countries was discussed at length, and certain opinions were expressed : (1) It was the impression of those who had most experience that very few if any students had obtained much value from going to either Japan or America. Strange degrees are not of much use in this country, and the conditions of industry are so different that experience in factories and mills there is of little profit here ; (2) our committees should be provided with some knowledge of conditions in these two countries.

Altogether we had 10 or 11 enquiries about Japan or the United States of America.

Another class of enquiry is from those who have no idea of going abroad at all, but wish to obtain British Diplomas or Degree without leaving India. For instance, one wishes to know where and how he can obtain a doctorate by a thesis of his, another is taking examinations of the Institute of Municipal and Civil Engineers at Calcutta, another of the City and Guilds at Bombay. I can generally help this type of enquirer, for though they are not students going to England I have the handbooks and prospectuses giving the information they are in need of.

In four cases I have had enquiries made by or about students who have been in Great Britain and are now in India. Three were seeking employment here and in all cases I am glad to say I was able to be of some assistance. One wished to return to finish a half finished course, but enquiry did not justify his doing so.

I get occasionally requests for information about appointments which have no relation to conditions abroad at all, e.g., regarding the Financial Civil Service, or a suitable high school for girls in Madras. These of course I simply acknowledge and request the enquirers to seek the information they desire elsewhere. One particular case of this kind however deserves mention. A student who had done very brilliantly in his Arts course and showed, according to his professors, great originality therein asked me for advice as to his future, and in view of his very special ability I corresponded with Government on his behalf as I thought possibly he might be sent with a research scholarship to England. I regret to say he joined the Law College last July, but I understand he is leaving us again in April to take a Government appointment which will give scope to his peculiar talents.

There is generally a certain quantity of correspondence with the Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State for India or others in England with regard to students who have been or are now in that country. I have ten cases of this kind this year. In four of these, students now back in this presidency were owing money in England, in one case to a London landlady, which I am glad to say we have been able through the assistance of a Collector to recover, in the three others there are debts of very long standing to the Distressed Indian Students Aid Committee, which I fear will never be realized. In this connexion I may remark that Indian students in Great Britain are under a very special obligation to pay their debts regularly and promptly, as the reputation of their fellows depends upon their behaviour in this respect. I do not believe there is any very wide cause for complaint against them on this score, but one or two bad cases may bring an undeserved disrepute upon a whole community. Another typical case which I wish to deal with is that of a student of average ability who was doing his best at the institution to which he was sent by his guardians. They however for some unknown reasons—apparently suspicious that he is not utilising his time and funds properly—are keeping back the necessary allowance. I need only point out how cruel this conduct on their part is. He has been getting into monetary difficulties and consequently his studies are suffering with the final result that the whole purpose of his going abroad is likely to be ruined. The whole trouble might have been avoided if his guardians had placed the youth under the guardianship of India Office. I have recently been requested to make inquiries in two separate cases as to the whereabouts of students, who have not corresponded with their people in India for over a year. These again are cases where the wisdom of adopting the expedient of official guardianship is clearly exemplified. In two other cases I have been consulted about the possibility of getting Government appointments for students ending their courses in British institutions, and have been able to advise about the testimonials, etc., required and to forward them to Great Britain. I have had only one case this year of a student who had gone to England intending to join an Inn of Court without the necessary testimonials from this country, and in his case I have not been able to get any reply from his father or get into touch with the other references he has given me.

I turn now from these 50 to 60 cases, of miscellaneous character, to the remaining 125 or so which form the direct and primary object of this Committee, the giving advice and information to students going to Great Britain about the facilities for training there.

Here again at the outset we may note a dozen cases of persons whose inquiries are so vague or uncertain that I have not been able to classify them under any particular head. Ten applicants wanted advice about the three premier Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and London. I have not classified inquiries about other Universities under the particular University, as the training to be undergone was more important in all other cases than the place at which it was to be followed. Law is still to many the gate of ambition. Besides the four already mentioned who inquired about the Cambridge Senior Local, with a view as I believe, ultimately to admission at an Inn of Court, and about half a dozen of those who inquired about the LL.B. at Colombo and at least two who talked of an American Law degree, there were 26 who wanted to know the road to the English Bar. Nineteen made inquiries about medical courses in Great Britain—a few aiming at the I.M.S. and a few at the L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S. degrees. Nineteen is also the number of those who inquire about the I.C.S. An increasing proportion of these were persons who have some conceivable hope of being successful. But the number of really hopeless cases among them is still very large. There are no preliminary educational qualifications prescribed for the I.C.S. as there are in the case of all other branches of the higher services recruited in England, e.g., the I.M.S., the P.W.D., and the Forestry. I suppose this is the reason why so many "failures" think of it as a possibility for themselves. The unpleasant truth cannot be revealed too soon to them that in view of the keen competition among first rate men from all over the empire, in normal times no one has really a chance of success unless he is at least of the standard of a Madras first class B.A., and can give a year to special training thereafter. The post war conditions which have shut out many of the most likely competitors of English blood has also produced legislation narrowing the field of competition so that it is still only the best among Indian students who can hope to be successful.

I deal together with the 14 inquirers about Engineering, the 11 about Agriculture, and the 5 about Forestry. I find it harder to give advice in these cases than in any other class of inquiry. There are certain broad lines which can be indicated. I think it is true to say that a degree by itself is no certain passport to subsequent employment. Practical training in high class work seems to be at least as important as an academic qualification—at any rate if the object is to get work with private employers. Quite a number of applicants are obviously

misguided in thinking of one of these pursuits as a career, as they show at once that they have not got the practical talents that make for success along these lines. Then there is a considerable amount of specialization, especially in Engineering, and the training should be undertaken with a view to possible developments in this country and though Mr. Champion's introduction in the handbook is very useful on this topic, it is really hardly full enough and is already nearly ten years out of date. Another difficulty is to know how far local institutions in Madras or Coimbatore or at Dehra Dun provide what is needed. To an amateur like myself it seems odd that a training in Agriculture, for instance, should be taken in the wintry-summery climate of Cirencester or Edinburgh, when the trained man will practise his art in the hot plains of Tanjore. At Simla one of the problems we discussed was the extension of scope of work of these Advisory Committees in view of just such problems as these. Our present object is simply to advise the student who is going to Great Britain about conditions there. The student must himself determine that he is going and with what ultimate object. Obviously however we ought to be able to advise him both as to institutions in India and as to future prospects in this country.

These observations apply a fortiori when we are consulted as to technical pursuits and industries. Last year, excepting those who were going to Japan or America, I had exceptionally few such inquiries, one about wireless telegraphy, one about soap manufacture, and one about paper mills. I felt in these cases the need of being in touch with expert knowledge in these industries.

There were two inquiries from would-be accountants and one from a gentleman who wished to take a degree in commerce at an English University.

Finally there were four who wanted to enter the Police by and after a course in England. No Indian can enter the higher branches of the Police service in this way now-a-days. The door for Madrases is by admission to the Police school at Vellore. So that in these few cases I had merely to reply that there is no possibility of obtaining a Police training or an appointment in the Indian Police by going to England.

The Committee was reconstituted in G.O. No. 723, Home (Education) Department, dated 31st May 1917, and the gentlemen named therein were appointed to hold office for a period of two years from the 1st June 1917. Mr. Paul Appaswami was the only new member added to the list.

In July 1917 a very useful Conference of Secretaries of the Advisory Committees throughout India was held at Simla. The proceedings of the Conference have not yet been received, and pending their receipt I refrain from further comment.

The High Court of Judicature, Madras, have amended rule 6 of the rules for the qualification and admission of advocates and at their request we have sent the amended rule to the India office for notification to students in England reading for the bar.

The amended rule now reads as follows:—

"Unless the Court, for special reasons, orders otherwise, an applicant who has been called to the Bar in England or Ireland shall produce satisfactory proof that he has read in the Chambers of a Barrister of not less than seven years' standing practising in England or Ireland, for at least six months continuously: Provided that this rule shall not apply to applicants for enrolment who were admitted to an Inn of Court on or before the 1st October 1912."

Circulars have been sent this year also to the heads of all colleges and secondary schools inviting students who think of going to the United Kingdom for study, to communicate with the Secretary for the purpose of obtaining information and advice.

A new edition of the handbook will be published probably after the war is over.

The news has just been received that Mr. S. Ramanujam, who holds a scholarship granted by this University at Cambridge and whose early inquiries were guided by this Committee, has after three or four years of most valuable and original work as a research student in Mathematics been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

SUB-ENCLOSURE

Table I.—Number of applicants, letters received, reply sent, and interviews held, from 11th March 1917 to 8th March 1918.

Community to which applicants belong.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
Hindus	235	162	70	196	146
Muhammadans	23	8	3	20	3
Indian Christians	27	17	6	30	22
Domiciled Community	18	14	6	18	9
	303	201	85	264	180
Number of communications received	544	312	66	257	279
Number of replies sent	517	322	67	258	280
Number of interviews held	93	68	17	63	55

Table II.—Number of students who have gone to the United Kingdom.

Community to which those who have left belong.	1912-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
Hindus	23	12	2	4	3
Muhammadans	1	..	..	1	..
Indian Christians	1	3	..	1	..
Domiciled Community	4	2	1	1	1
Parsees	1	..	..	..	..
	30	17	3	7	4

Table III.—Studies to be pursued in the United Kingdom.

	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
University Degrees in Arts and Sciences ..	4	5	3	4	3
I.C.S. and other Services	4	3	..	1	..
Bar { London Inns	5	5	..	2	..
{ Kings Inns	4	(P) 2	..	..	..
Engineering	3	3	..	1	..
Sanitary Engineering	..	..	..	..	..
Medicine	6	5	..	2	1
Agriculture	1	..	..	..	..
Forestry	1	..	..	1	..
Chartered Accountant	..	..	..	..	..
Textile Industry	2	..	..	..	..
Not known	2	..	..	..	..

Table IV.—Educational centres to which students have gone.

	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
Oxford	4	4	(F) 1		1
Cambridge	3	(F) 1		2	2
London	6	3		1	
Bar { London Inns	5	2			
Kings Inns	4	2			
Manchester	2				
Bristol					
Edinburgh	4	3	2	3	
Glasgow		1			1
Dublin	4	2			
Durham					
School	1				
Unknown	6	1		1	

Order—No. 455, Home (Education), dated 8th April 1918.

Recorded.

The thanks of the Government are due to the members of the Madras Students' Advisory Committee for the services rendered by them.

(True extract)

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Secretary, the Madras Students' Advisory Committee.
 „ the Director of Public Instruction.
 „ Registrar, University of Madras.
 Editors' Table.

Madras Students' Advisory Committee

Recording report on the work of the _____ from the
11th March 1917 to the 8th March 1918 ~~and the reports of the~~
~~proceedings of the meetings of the _____ held at the~~
~~in March 1917 and the 9th March 1918.~~

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191

191

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 625B From the Secretary, Madras District, No. 556, dated 19. 3 1918.
DB. Committee

ORDER.

No. 455, dated 8. 4. 1918.

p. 5.

Recorded.

2. The thanks of the Government are due to the members of the Madras Students' Advisory Committee for the services rendered by them.

20. The Secretary, The Madras Students' Advisory
Committee
" D. P. I.
" Registrar, University of Madras

Ven
 27. 3. 18.

25328

for 150 Sec (M) 9-2-18
 1308 u P 22-10-17
 847 u M 26-6-17
 723 u P 31-5-17
 429 u P 2-4-17
 440 u M 4-4-17

The reports may be recorded and placed on the Editors' Table.
 A draft order is submitted for approval.

Box 28
 CUC 6-4-18
 R.H. 8-4-18
 Scott. 8 (a) -160,001 -16-1-17.

not to be printed

In precedent please see
 So. No. 429 (M) (Eds)
 2-4-17

Issue
 Led
 8/18

CIV 62573 From the Secretary, Madras Students' Advisory Committee No 556 dated 19.3.18.

Subject - Forwarding copies of the Proceedings of the meetings of the Committee held on the 20th Oct 17 & 27th March 17 and also copy of the annual report of the Secretary for the year 1917-18.

For the U.S.

The reports may be recorded and placed on the Editors' Table.

2. A draft Order is submitted for approval.

27.3.18.
 J. H. the Governor
 28.3.18
 Leds
 53418

7 - APR 1918

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Hann (589) DEPARTMENT.

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G.O. No. 455, dated 2.4.1918

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Students' Advisory Committee Report

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(c) Signature copies of letters to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India should be printed on hand-made paper.

(d) This slip should be returned by the Press to the Secretariat when proofs are furnished; it will be sent back to the Press when proofs are returned corrected and should be finally returned to the Secretariat when struck-off copies are supplied.

(e) The names of the Secretary and Members should be printed in full when they occur on the right hand side, only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

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has been carefully edited, (b) proof need
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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

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